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ABSTRACT

Written in a conversational style with illustrations, this booklet from a series of home literacy readers is directed at the Alaskan environment where guns are a way of life, used for food and defense from animals. But more than 10% of the 1,300 U.S. deaths from gun accidents occur in Alaska, and more than 70%, at home. Nearly half the victims are under 21. Gun safety is a matter of knowing when and how to handle guns. It is important, for example, to store guns and ammunition away from children, to teach children not to play with guns, and to teach them how to shoot when hunting. Guns should be kept unloaded whenever possible. When carrying guns, one should keep the safety on, fingers outside the trigger guard, and uncocked (open actions of shotguns), especially if jumping or climbing. Guns, instead of being packed loose in travel gear, should be disassembled and the pieces wrapped. Alcohol should not be consumed when hunting or gun cleaning. One should never shoot at flat hard surfaces or water, and always make sure of the target. People should be warned of loaded guns at fishing camps or when trapping. Children should be forewarned to stay away from strange guns. A gun should always be treated as if it were loaded. (SC)

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Is There a Gun in the House?

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Gun Safety in the Home

RC 01 2080

Is There a **Gun** in the House?

Gun Safety in the Home

by
Rosanne Keller

1977

Literacy Council of Alaska
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Each year 1,300 people in the U.S. die —
from gun accidents in the home!

More than 10 of these are Alaskans!

In the village every family has guns.
Guns are needed to get meat.
Guns are needed to keep wild animals away.
Guns are a way of life!

Kids are around guns from the day they are born.
They learn to use guns at a very early age.
They help hunt for meat.

Older people teach kids about guns.
Fathers take their sons hunting.
Sometimes they take their girls too.
The fathers teach the kids how to hunt.
They show them how to **shoot.**

The older people know that guns are safe...
...if people use them right
...if people store them safely.

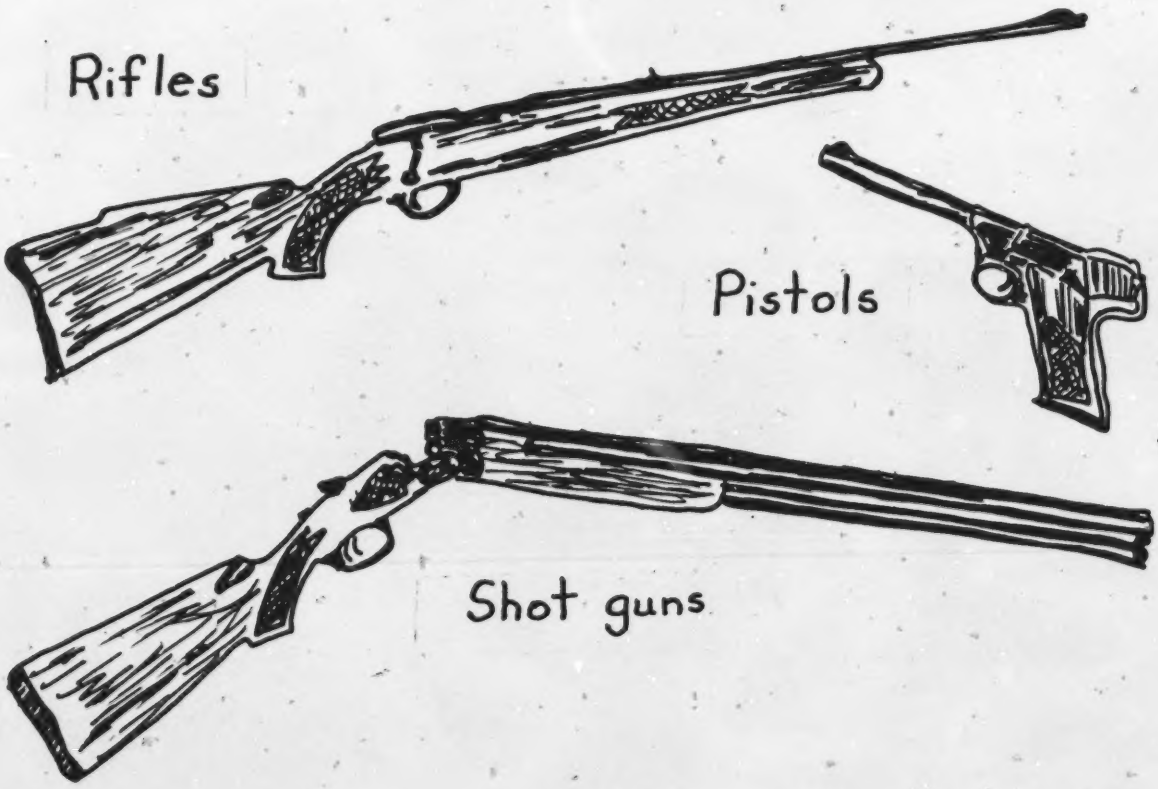
Fathers show the kids how to use a gun.
They show them how to store a gun.

Think of this!

Over half the gun killings are caused by kids.
Almost half of the victims are under age 21.
Over 70% of the gun killings happen at home.

Accidents are caused by **people**

...careless **people**!



All guns are dangerous.
If they are not used right by people,

Guns can kill!

How can guns be safe ?

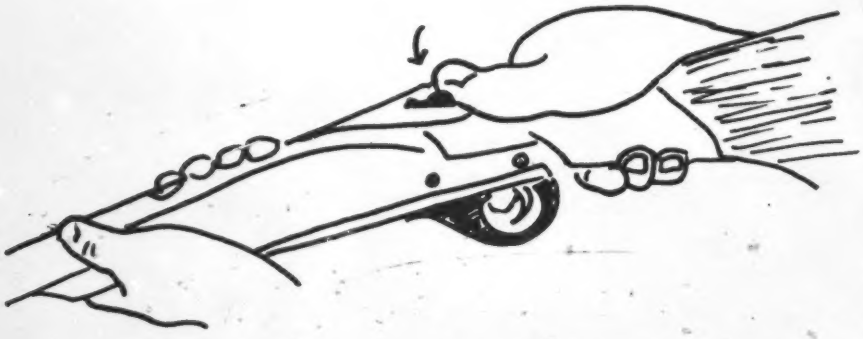
Ask a father who loves his children.
Ask an old man who has seen a lot of life.
Ask a mother who knows the harm guns can do.
They know you have to —

Treat every gun as if it was loaded!

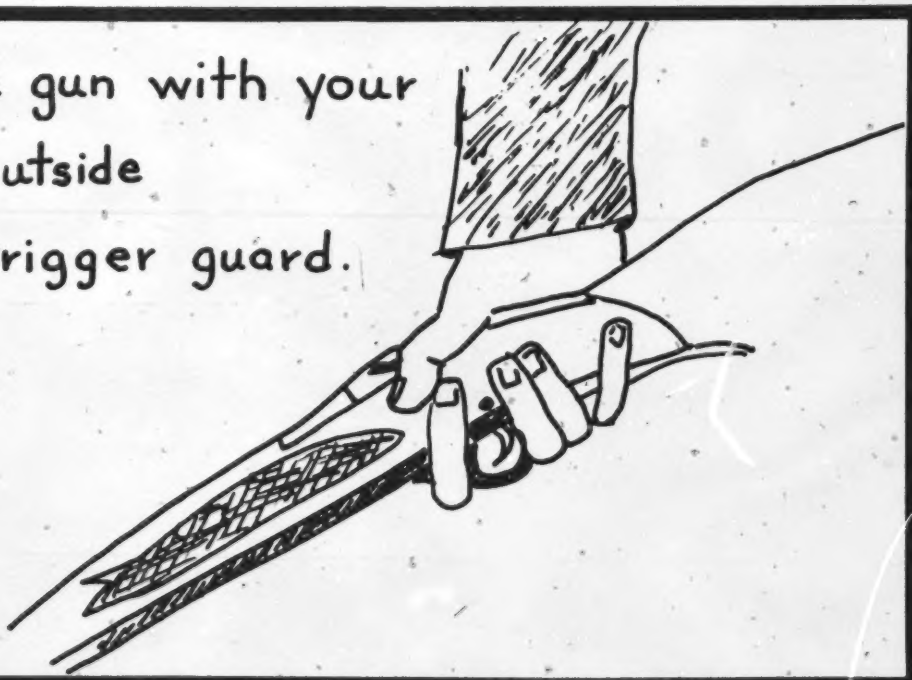
When you use a gun~

1. Keep the "safety" on.

But don't trust it!



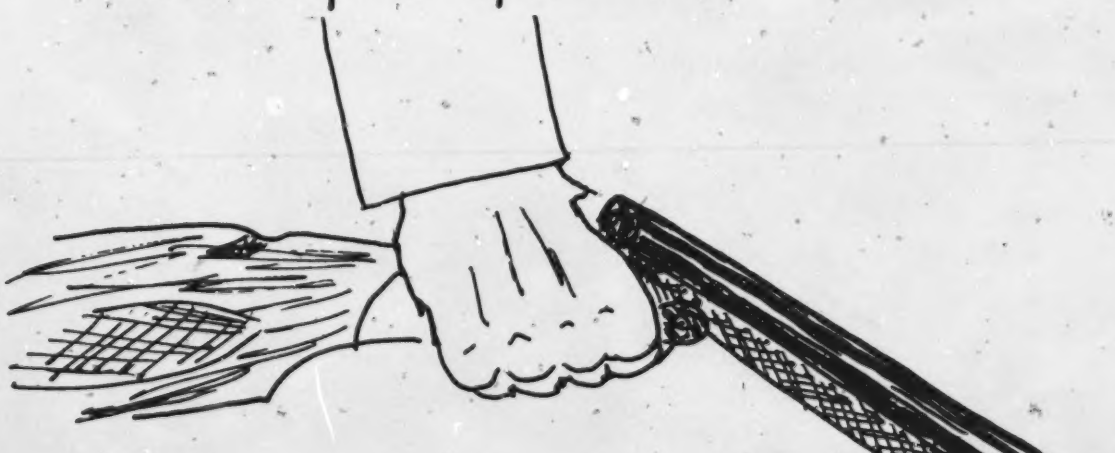
2. Carry the gun with your finger outside the trigger guard.



Treat every gun as if it was loaded.

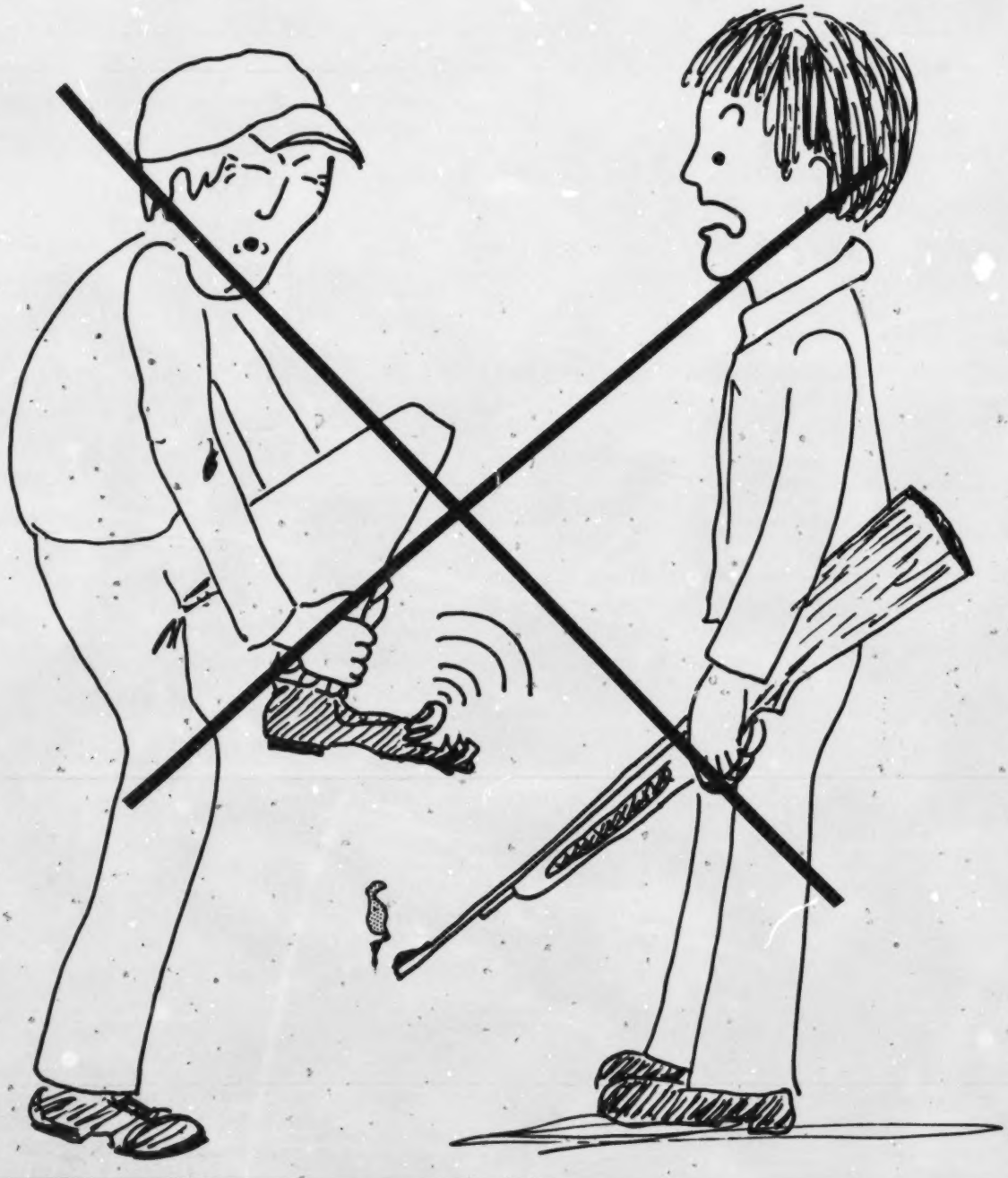
3. Keep the gun unloaded until you are well away from the house. Take out the shells or the magazine or the clip to be safe.

4. With a shotgun — open the action and keep it open.



Treat every gun as if it was loaded!

5. Point it in a safe direction.



Treat every gun as if it was loaded!

To clean a gun.....

(Treat it as if it was loaded!)

Point it in a safe direction.

Keep other people.....especially children....away.
Open the action.
Make sure all the parts work.
Clean it.
Oil it (not too much).

Then~

Before you put it away, check the bore.
See if you left any patches.

This way if possible.

Sometimes the only way to check the bore is to look down the barrel.

Before you look down the barrel....
...make sure the gun is not cocked.
...open the action
...check to see if it is un-loaded.

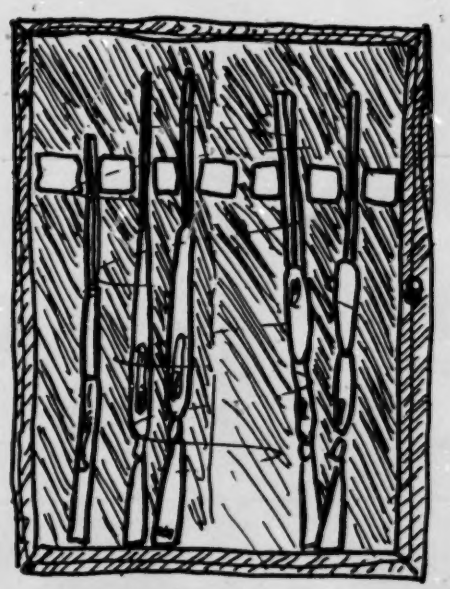
Then store in a **safe place**!

Treat every gun as if it was loaded!

To store a gun....

Put the gun
out of the reach
of children.

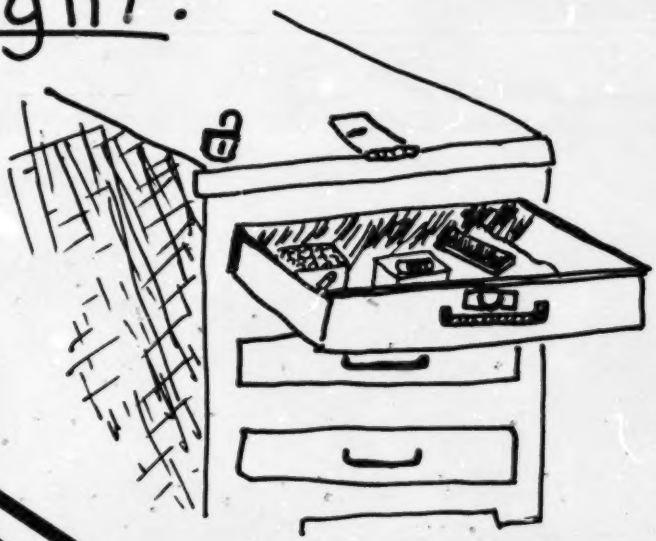
Store the gun
in a locked box
or
on a high rack

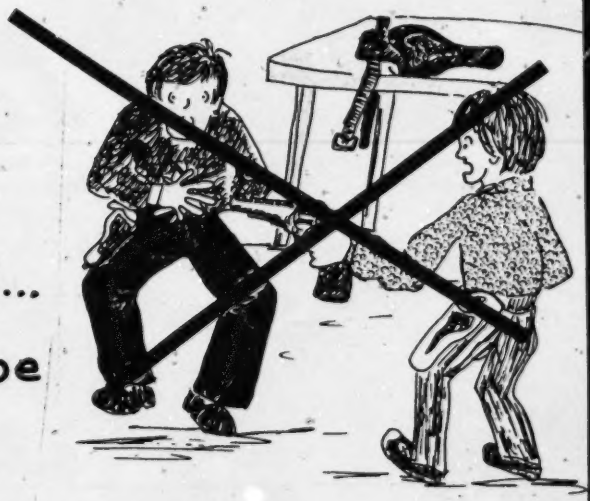


Treat every gun as if it was loaded.

Store shells, bullets and clips in a different place....

<u>out of sight!</u>





Store the guns unloaded and uncocked... where they cannot be dropped jarred or used by children as toys.

Treat every gun as if it was loaded!

If you send a gun....

or take it with you on a trip....

Make sure you unload it.

Carry ammunition separately.

Uncock it.

Take the bolt out.

Better — take the gun apart.

Put it in a case or wrap it.

Never carry it loose in a suitcase.

Treat every gun as if it was loaded.

If you need to keep a gun loaded...

when you are camping,
when you are at fish camp,
when you are trapping,

Store it with care...

...out of the reach of little kids.

Warn older kids not to touch it!

But
remember

Parents know —

Before you handle a loaded gun....

You have *to* learn *how* to *shoot!*

Never touch a gun in someone elses house.
Use a loaded gun only if you ask.

If you see a gun lying around —

Treat every gun as if it was loaded.

When you go shooting ~

Treat every gun as if it was loaded.

Be sure the bore is clear.

Be sure of your target before you
pull the trigger.

Unload guns when you are not using them.
Take them apart or open the action.

If you climb a tree
or jump a ditch
or cross a fence —

... open the action
... unload your gun

Don't depend on the "safety!"

Never point a gun at anything ....
... you don't want to shoot

No horse play!

Never shoot a bullet at a flat hard surface or at water.

Guns and liquor don't mix.

Never drink before or during shooting!

Don't drink while hunting.
Don't drink while cleaning or handling guns.

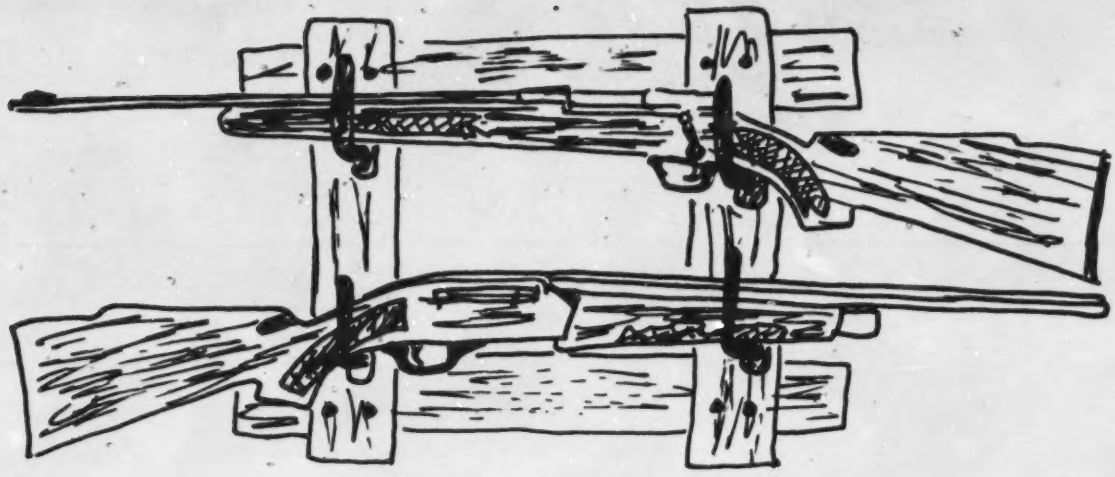
Remember ....

Treat every gun as if it was loaded!

Children learn by watching.

If parents are careful.
If parents care about gun safety—

Kids will follow their lead!



Everyone lives longer....

When they practice gun safety.